may all go to the same Select Committee, to be considered as a whole and necessary amendments and changes effected and then what comes out of the Select Committee may be considered by this House. There was a suggestion by the mover which was considered by a very large Section of the House probably inclusive of the Government of that day that it may well be done so. I make the suggestion even now so that I need not say anything on the succeeding Bills at this stage. These Bills, all the four of them, may well go to the same Select Committee and the Committee may be directed to expedite their consideration so that all these 4 Bills the one before the Select Committee already this one and the succeeding one as also the amending Bill moved by the Hon'ble Deputy President may all be considered together. These 4 amending Bills will cover up a lot of the unhappy things that are existing in Act VIII of 1118. with these observations I second this Bill.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Sir, this House is fully aware of the fact that the provisions in the Verumpattamdars' Act 8 of 18 relating to the payment of pattom in kind is based on the average of the 20 years on the date of the contract of tenancy was introduced after a good deal of controversy and it was as a measure of justice both to the landlord and the tenant. The House then took the view that such a stable measure is necessary. That does not mean that the question is not again open for consideration. (*Hear, hear.*) The Government are prepared to keep an open mind in this matter but I may want the Hon'ble mover that Government are not accepting even one single argument advanced by him nor do I accept some of the points raised by the Hon'ble Member from Vadakkancheri, because the section as it goes does not insist a person who has executed a lease deed to-day and a lease deed 4 days afterwards to pay different kinds of pattom, because the number of coconuts is to be determined with reference to the average price of coconuts for the last 20 years prior to the contract of tenancy and this House will appreciate regard being had to the period taken into consideration that there may not be such a vast difference. That argument would have been quite alright prior to the introduction of this amendment. I therefore submit that Government while they are prepared to keep an open mind are not committed to any principle. Therefore, without any more trying to take up the time of this House I have to announce that Government have absolutely no objection for this matter being considered again by the very same Select Committee. Government will keep an open mind upon this question and the whole question could be reviewed again.

Mr. M. K. Verghese *(Cranganur):* I have no objection to refer this Bill to the Select Committee of Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan's Bill.

The motion was put and carried

Secretary to the Council: The title of the Bill is The Cochin Verumpattamdars Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. M. K. Verghese *(Cranganur):* I move that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee which is considering Mr. Krishnan Ezhuthassan's Bill.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* I second it.

Mr. President: I will ask the Revenue Minister to serve on the Committee in the place of the Diwan Peishkar.

Motion put and carried

(iv) The Cochin Verumpattamdars' Act (Amendment) Bill

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Mr. President, I move that the Cochin Verumpattamdars' Act (Amendment) Bill be read in Council and in doing so I just want to briefly state the scope of the amending Bill. What is excluded from the provision of the Verumpattamdars Act as far as the Municipalities are concerned is attempted to be included. In the case of the hard hit man going by the name of Kudikidapukars who is now excluded from the definition of the word "tenant", he is also attempted to be brought under the definition as also Varapattam and Pankupattam tenants. Another clause introduces that beginning of something that is very necessary and that is this. Instead of having a few landholders, jenmies or zemindars by whatever name these people may be known, I want to bring into existence a class of peasant proprietors. That is the purport of clause 4 of the amending Bill. Look at the beauty of that! How enjoyable in contra-distinction to the man who does not know what he should do with the enormous extent of property that he possess. And the last clause is to do away with the monstrouse clause 2 of section 5 dealing with pattam of cocoanut gardens. I am sure that this Bill

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will be agreed to be referred to the same select Committee. I commend the motion for acceptance by the House.

Mr. M. K. Verghese *(Cranganur):* I second it.

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General):* Sir, Government wish to adopt the same policy with regard to this Bill also as was adopted in the case of the previous Bills. With certain reservations that is the provision in this amending Bill to confer fixity of occupancy rights upon varam and pankupattam tenants is opposed by Government. Government is also against giving unfettered right of purchase to the Verumpattamdars while Government is prepared to extend the right of pre-eumption; so that that means if the landlord is going to sell his land the first option to purchase it should be given to the tenant. With regard to the total deletion of clauses 2 and 3 of section 5 regard being had to the commutation of pattam in kind of coconut that is on the basis of the average. Government are keeping an open mind upon that question. Then the position with regard to the Municipal lands also has to be referred to the Select Committee. Government is not committing itself to any position at this stage. I wish to state these so that an argument may not be raised afterwards that because Government are party to refer to a Select Committee the principles contained in the Bill have been accepted by Government. It is only for a final adjustment of the business and for the consideration of all the questions that have been dealt with in this Bill that this position has been taken up by Government. I may also state that the Government have no objection to consider with these reservations the principles contained in these bills.

Motion put and carried

Secretary to the Council: The title of the Bill is the Cochin Verumpattamdars' Act (Amendment) Bill.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I move, Sir, that this Bill also be referred to the Select Committee to which the former Bills were referred.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* I second it.

Motion put and carried

Mr. President: Mr. L. M. Pylee is not here to-day, to move the introduction of his Bill. We will take it up to-morrow.

(v) The Cochin Free Compulsory Primary Education Bill

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* I move, Sir, that the Cochin Free Compulsory Education Bill be read in Council and in making that motion I have the duty to briefly explain the purpose of the Bill, though in the light of the position taken up by the Government even prior to the date of the inaugaration of the popular ministry much of explanation is not necessary. From the deliberations of the post-war re-construction committee on matters educational of which I happen to be a member I have been able to see, Sir, that the Government wants to introduce compulsion in the field of Primary Education. But the original idea of the Government was to have the whole of Cochin brought under compulsion within a very long period of 30 years. But the Sub-committee has brought down the length of the period to 1/3. The minutes of the Sub-committee will show that compulsion is to be had in 10 years. What was pressed for by me was 5 years. What was got was 10 years. I much say that I was not satisfied with the period of 10 years adopted by the Sub-committee, This period of 10 years will naturally be accepted by the Government because the Government was one of the mian parties to this conclusion. It is not however a subject which should wait or can wait for 10 years. For even 5 years. But unlike some other motion that was more important or at least equally important as this one that was the subject matter of discussion here yesterday, though not in the form of a Bill but in the form of a resolution, I am not for having compulsion introduced throughout the State all atonce. Necessary time to work out the detail of introduction of compulsion must be given to any Government even the popular Government of the day. They must be given time and the House may be pleased to give them time. But at the same time let not the House be any party to putting it of even for 5 years. As was stated in connection with the other matter yesterday here the most backward area in literacy should be first selected. First things first must be the rule to be followed. By that I don't mean that these coastal areas and the urban areas where comparatively the percentage of literacy is much higher, can wait even for 5 years'

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